



Asia-Pacific Counter-IED Fusion Center IED Monthly Report - February 2020



About the APCFC

APCFC is US Army Pacific's coordinating authority and DoD subject matter expert for C-IED, C-sUAS, and emerging improvised threats in the Indo-Pacific region. APCFC conducts irregular warfare analysis, supports identity activities, provides counter-improvised threat (C-IT) training, facilitates engagements with US, Allies, and Partner Nations, and develops Indo-Pacific C-IT and EOD plans, policies and programs to minimize the impact of improvised threats.

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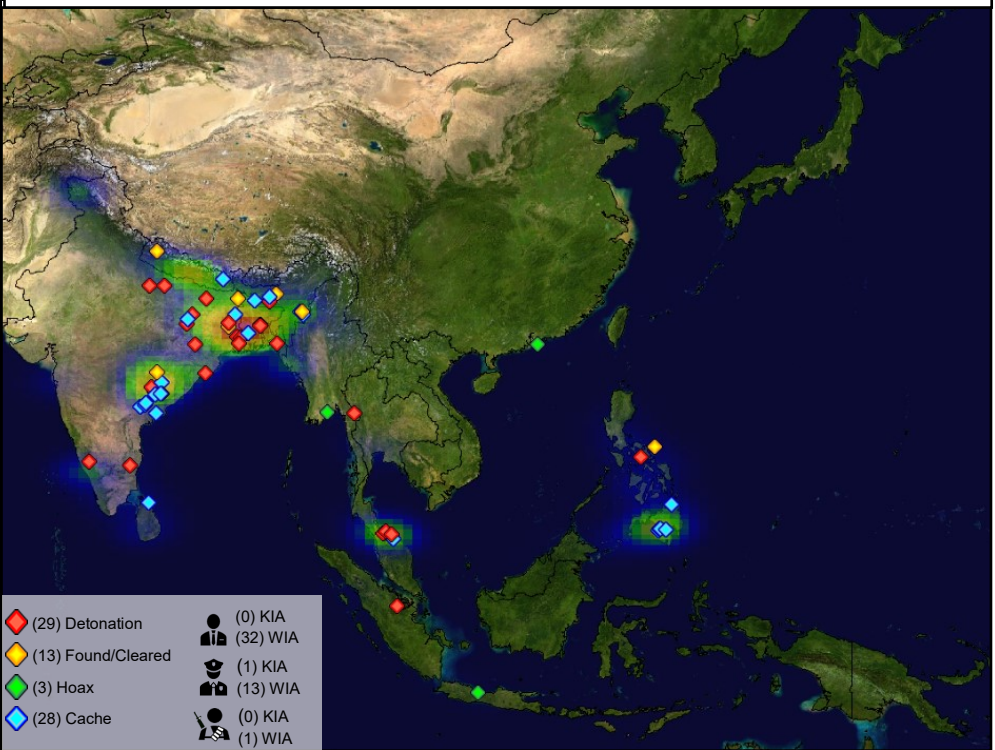
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Month at a Glance — February

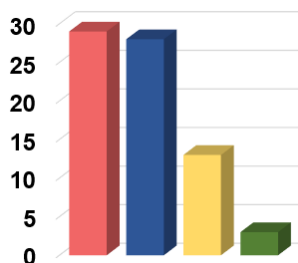
The Indo-Pacific region experienced 73 IED events in February: 56 events in South Asia, 16 events in Southeast Asia, and one event in Northeast Asia. These events consisted of 222 devices. In total, there were 29 IED detonation events, 13 IED found and cleared events, three hoax IED events, and 28 IED cache events. There were 47 casualties: 32 civilians wounded, one Police, Military, Government (PMG) killed, 13 PMG wounded and one enemy wounded.

There were 73 IED events in the Indo-Pacific region in February 2020

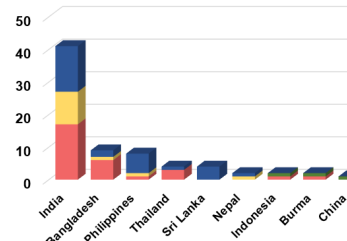


Icons depict events for February 2020; heat map depicts event density from February 2019—February 2020

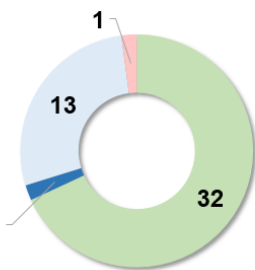
February IED events



February IED events by Country

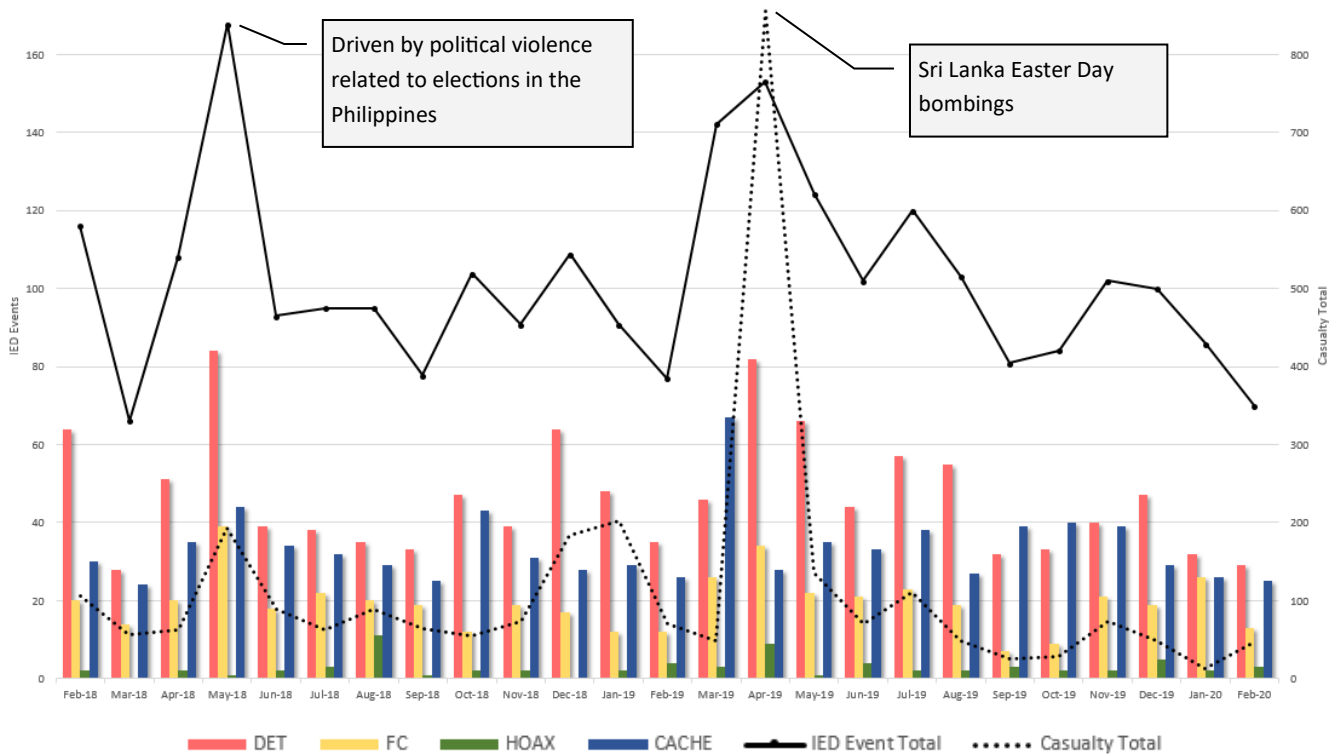


February IED Casualties

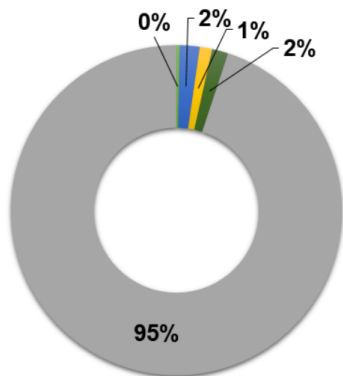


■ Detonation ■ Hoax ■ CIV KIA ■ PMG KIA ■ EKIA
■ Found/Cleared ■ Cache ■ CIV WIA ■ PMG WIA ■ EWIA

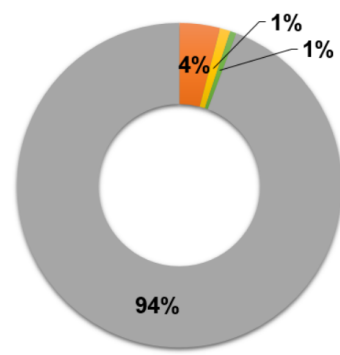
IED Activity - Past 24 Months



Switch Type



Main Charge Type



■ CWIED
 ■ RCIED
 ■ VOIED
 ■ Timed
 ■ Unknown
 ■ Commercial Explosives
 ■ HME
 ■ Military Munitions
 ■ Unknown

Incident Highlight: Thailand Motorcycle VBIED Wounds 10 in Songkhla

On 24 February, suspected insurgents detonated a motorcycle VBIED parked on the side of the road in Saba Yoi, Songkhla, targeting a pick-up truck carrying the assistant chief of Saba Yoi District. After detonating the device, insurgents hiding in the nearby vegetation attacked the convoy with small arms fire. Security forces returned fire which caused the suspects to flee. The blast injured 10 people, including three students, three security volunteers, three civilians, and the assistant chief.

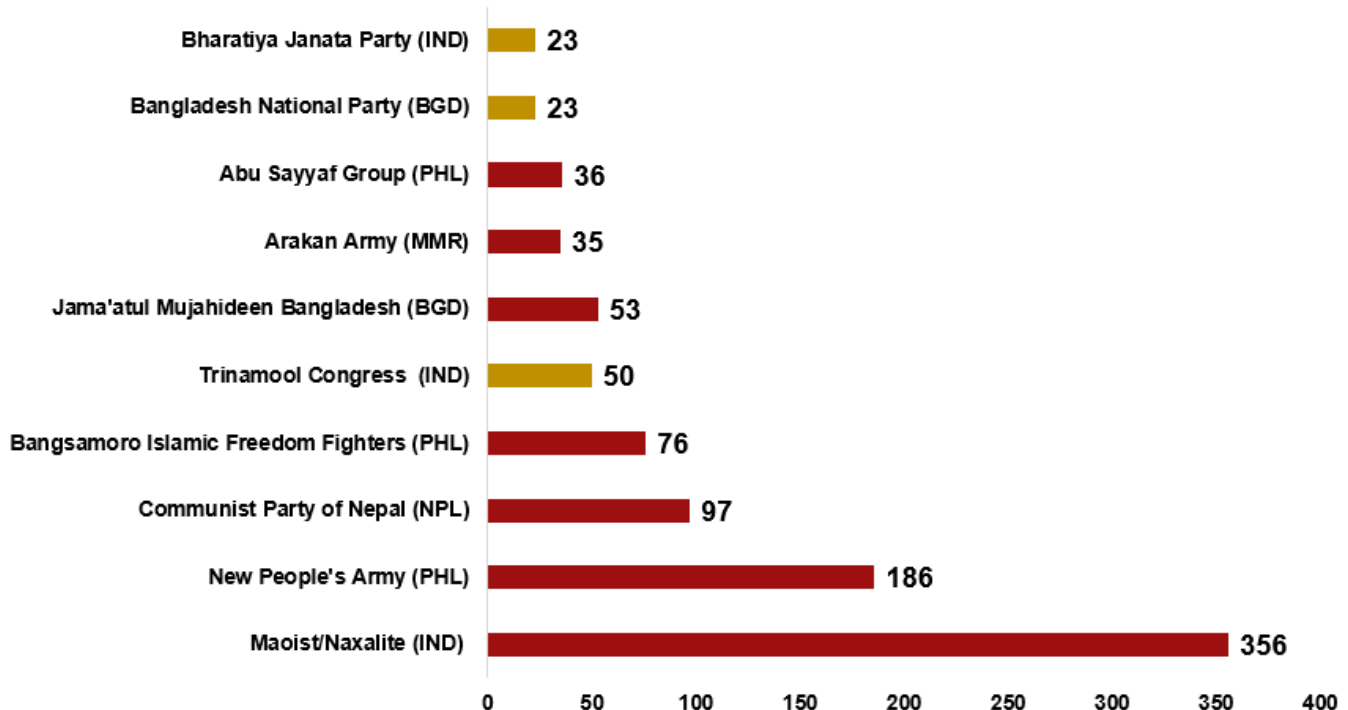
The IED used an estimated 5kg main charge and was strapped to the motorcycle. Police suspect the attack was a retaliation for the killing of six insurgents during a 23 February clash with security forces on Tawae Mountain, Narathiwat. According to police, the attackers were likely members of a group led by Rosari Lamso, a known insurgent leader in Songkhla who has been previously linked to a Southern Thailand VEO, the Runda Kumpulan Kecil.

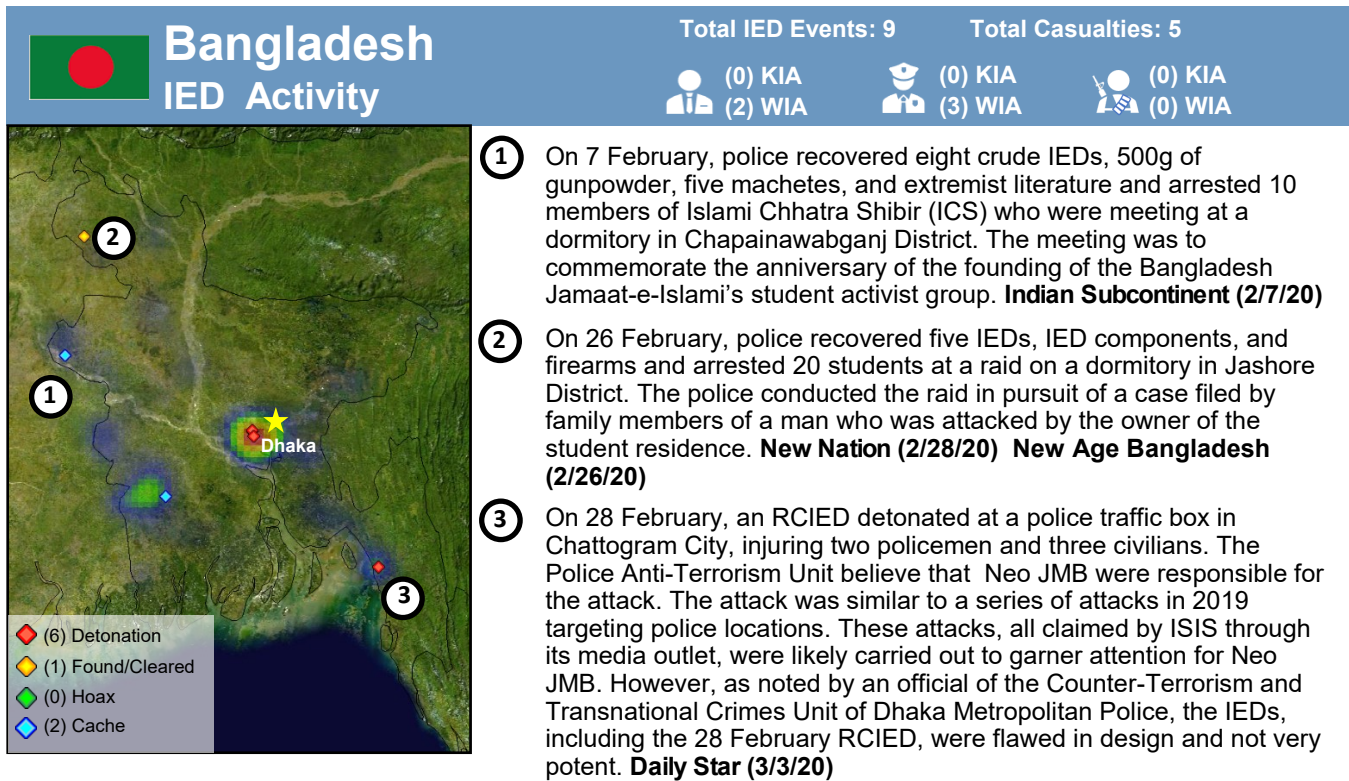


Sources: Bangkok Post (2/26/2020) Chiang Rai Times (2/25/20) The Star (2/26/20) Bangkok Post (2/25/20)

Group Affiliation

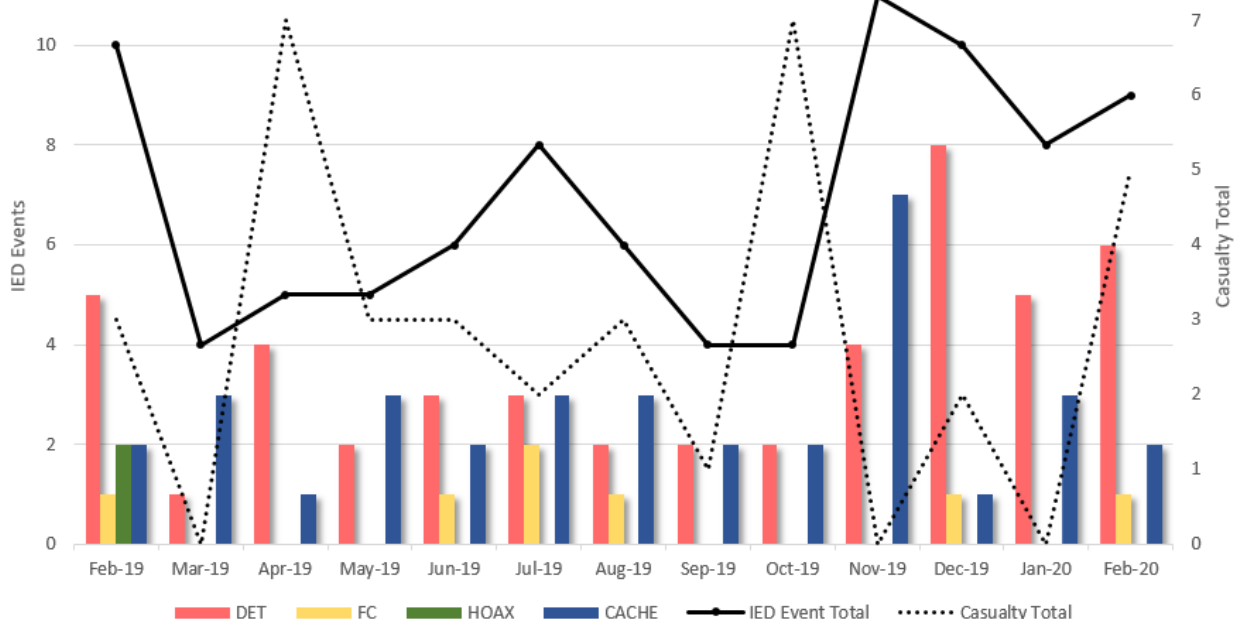
Extremist Factions of Political Parties
Violent Extremist Organizations



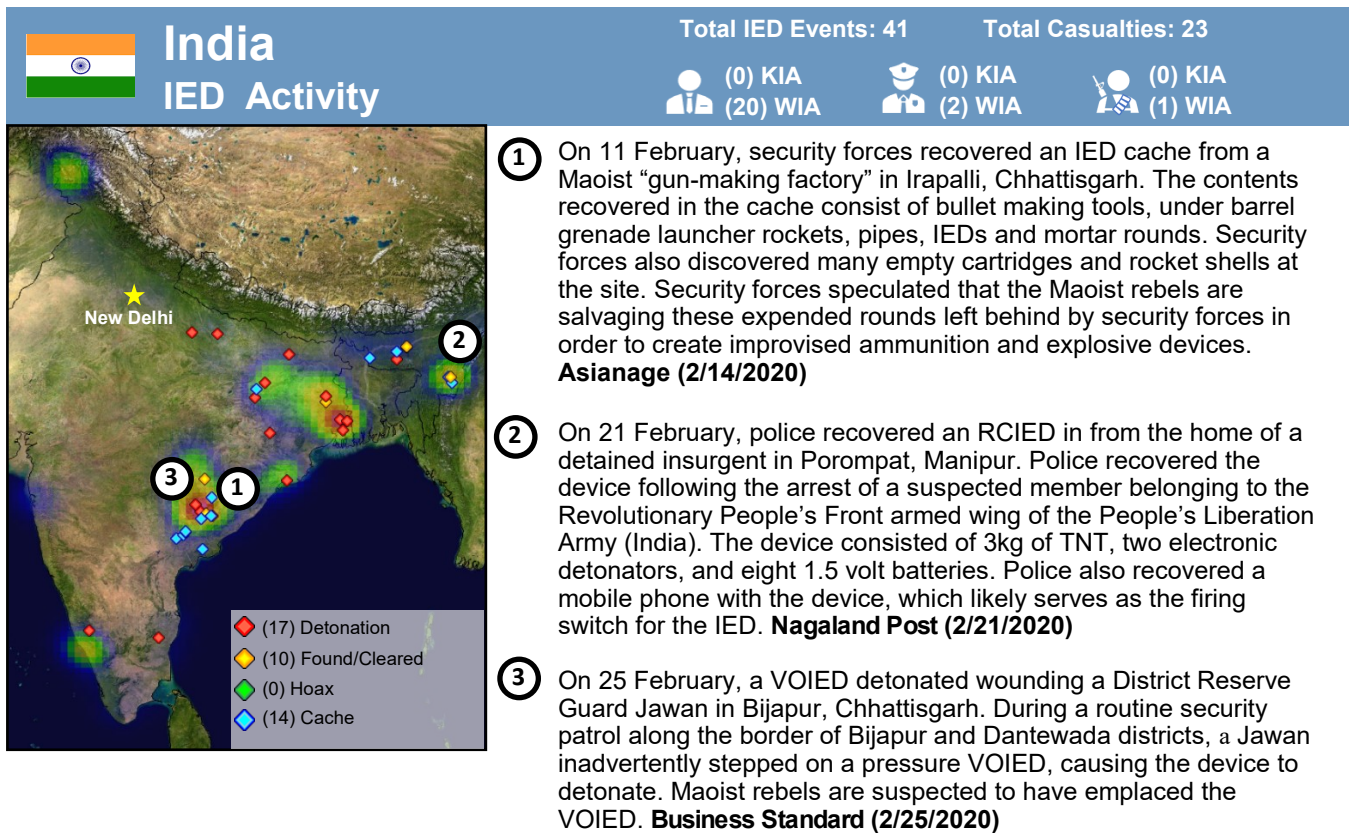


The number of IED events remained consistent with recent months, with five of the six IED detonations being politically-motivated. Four of the IED detonations occurred on the day of Dhaka City's mayor elections and were likely intended to suppress voter turnout (which was 40 percent and characterized by officials as a low turnout). The other politically-motivated IED detonation occurred at the Madhu Canteen on Dhaka University campus in Dhaka, the site of eight such IED detonations over the last three months. Neo JMB's RCIED attack at the end of the month follows a pattern of eight similar attacks which occurred from April to December last year. Seven of eight occurred towards the end of the month, and seven directly targeted police (one targeted a political office). Police arrested six JMB members between September 2019 and January 2020 which may have disrupted attack plans. However, police believe the "Ameer" Neo JMB cell leader is still at large and may control a Neo JMB cell who orchestrated this recent attack.

Bangladesh IED Activity February 2019—February 2020

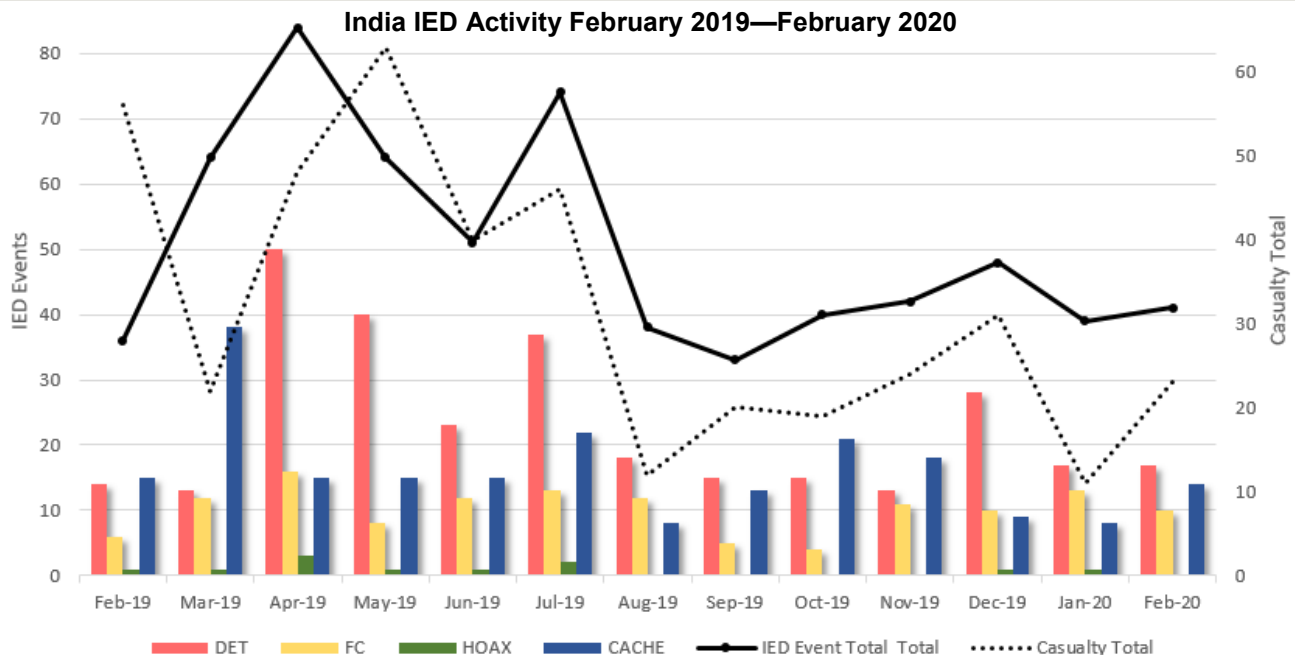


IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.



IED levels slightly decreased this month compared to January. Activity in the Red Corridor region and the Seven Sisters saw similar activity levels, however Jammu & Kashmir had no events occur this month. The lack of IED activity in Jammu & Kashmir is unusual, but corresponds with the downturn in overall terror-related violence in the region since the start of the year (down 60% over the same period last year).

Meanwhile, protests in Delhi have continued to escalate, petrol bombs and other riot activity has resulted so far in the deaths of one policeman and 12 civilians, and has left over 150 injured. Confrontations are becoming more violent as Islamic and Hindu factions continue to clash over the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which has left many Muslims feeling marginalized. Protests and violent activity over the CAA can be expected to continue in the coming months.



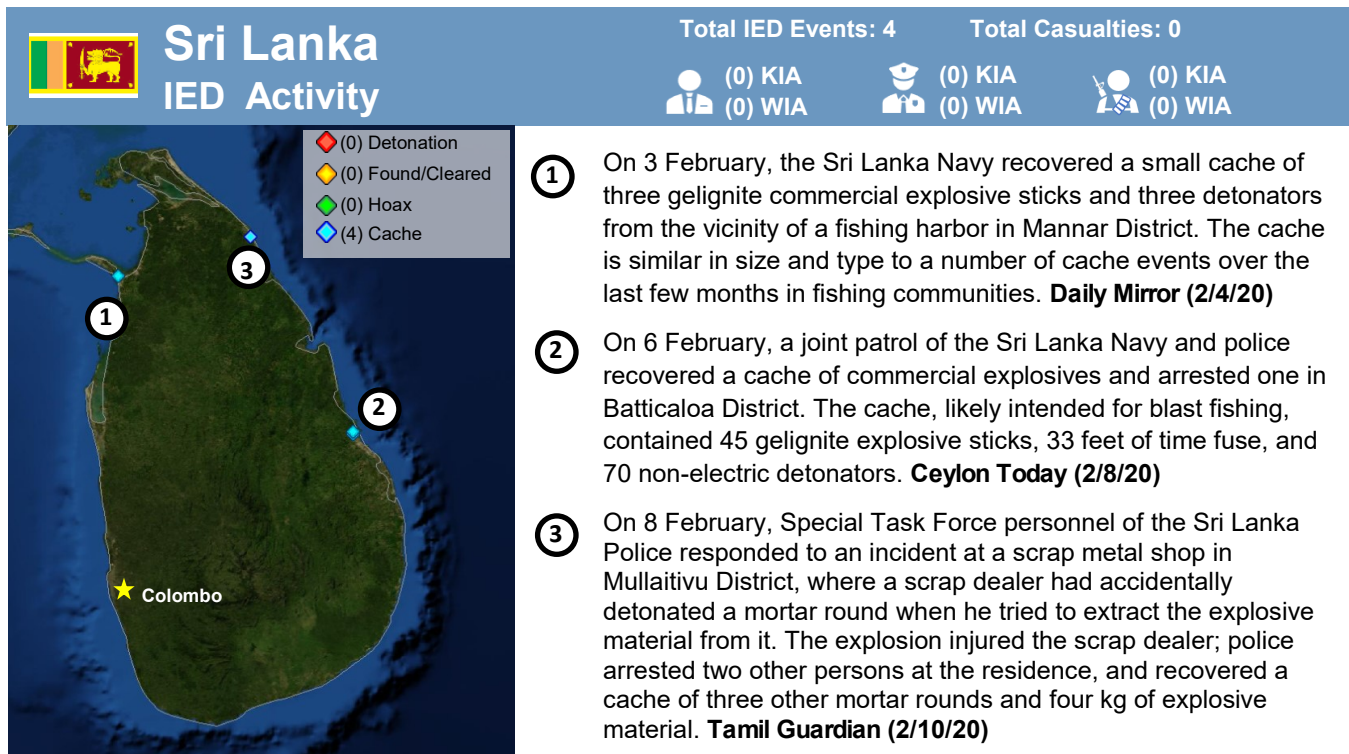
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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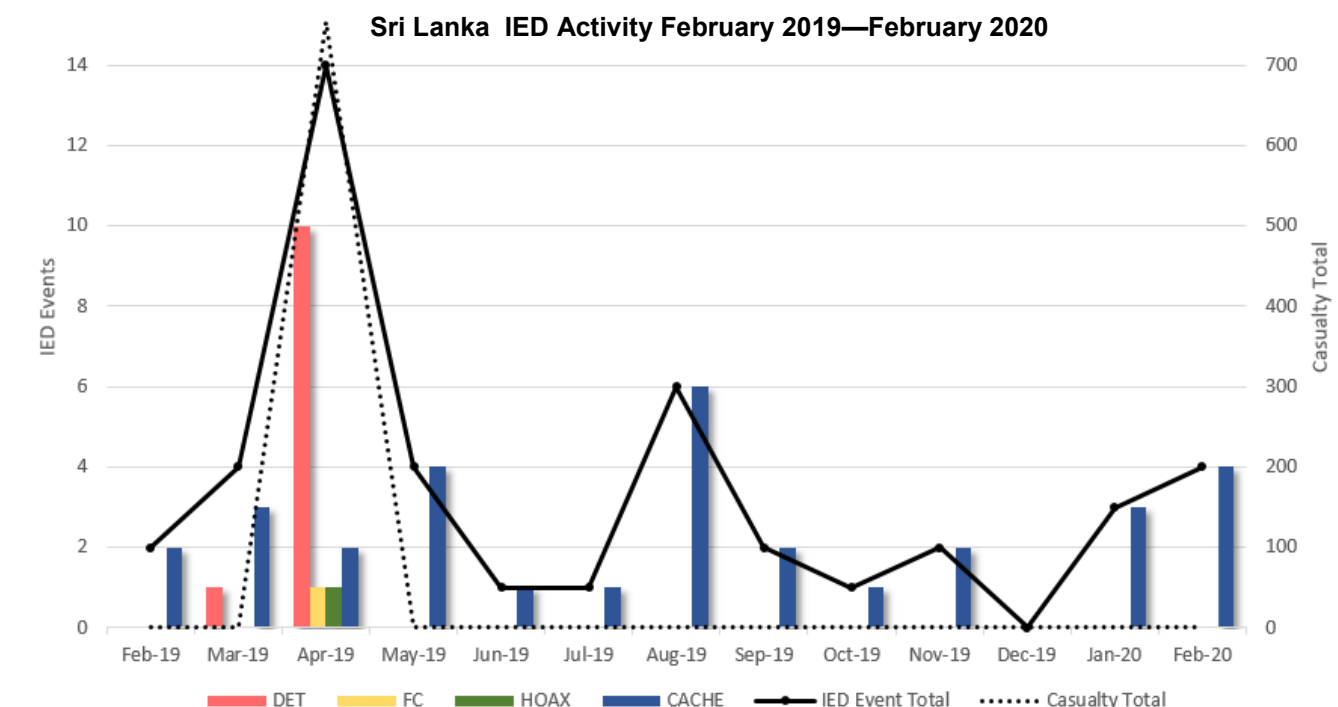


UNCLASSIFIED

South Asia



IED events remained consistent with recent months. Sri Lankan Police and Navy personnel recovered four explosives caches. The cache events all occurred in the Northern or Eastern Provinces, where fishing is widespread. The scrap dealer's premature detonation led police to discover the dangerous practice of extracting explosive material in a residential neighborhood. Although the police did not offer any motive for the scrap dealer's activities, it is not uncommon for individuals from heavily mined areas like Mullaitivu to extract explosives material from explosive remnants of war (ERW). Unfortunately, the wide availability of such remnants of war munitions from the insurgency in 2009, tempts people to make money with this practice.



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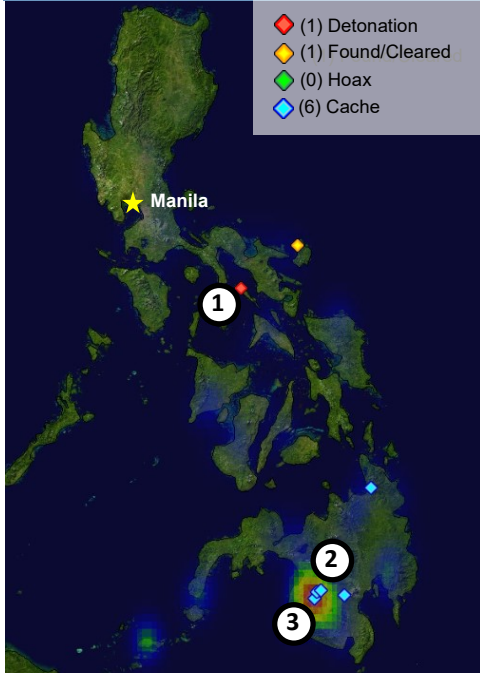
Philippines IED Activity

Total IED Events: 8

Total Casualties: 0

 (0) KIA
(0) WIA

 (0) KIA
(0) WIA

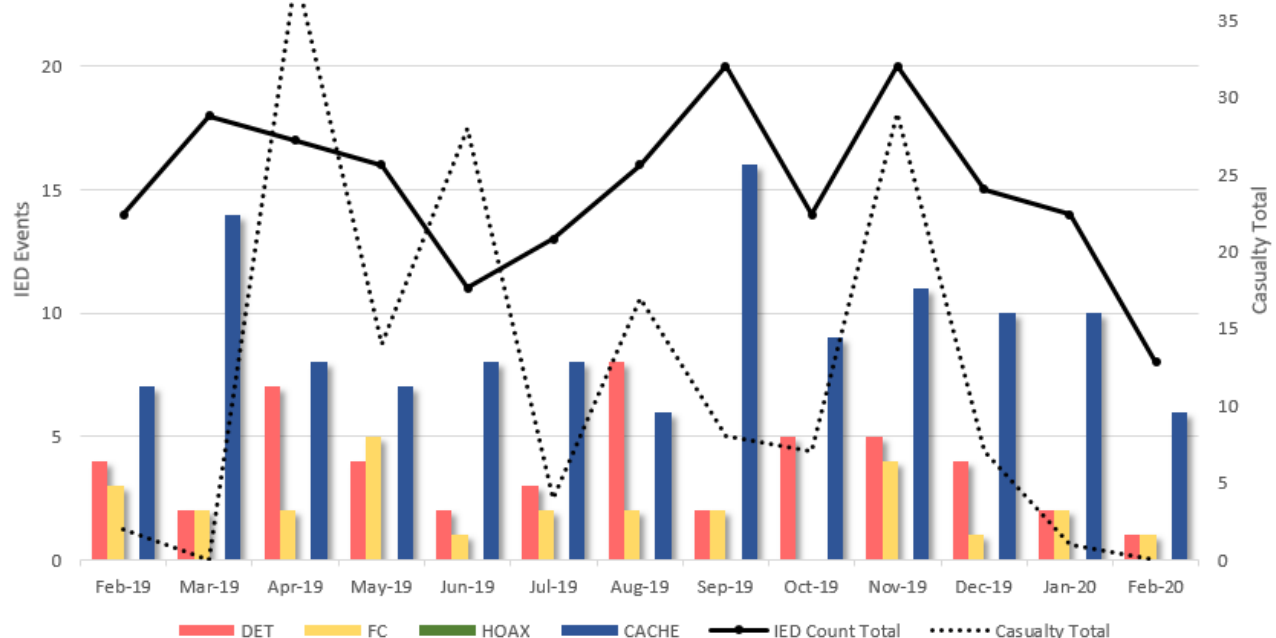
 (0) KIA
(0) WIA


- ① On 11 February, unidentified perpetrators threw an improvised grenade at a passenger ship docked at the port of San Pascual, Masbate. No one was injured in the explosion, but the ship was left damaged. Police believe the motive of the attack was extortion related. **Manila Times (02/16/20)**
- ② On 12 February, during operations to find a BIFF bomb maker identified as Katato Samad, security forces engaged BIFF militants with small arms fire in Pikit, Cotabato; resulting in an unconfirmed number of hostile casualties. Following the firefight, a cache of IEDs and weapons were seized from the routed militants. On the same day of the operation, three BIFF militants surrendered with a weapons cache that included two IEDs and various firearms. The surrendered militants reported that Samad had been killed. **Inquirer (2/14/20)**, **Benar News (2/14/20)**
- ③ On 27 February, a cache of IEDs, hand grenades, and other IED components was seized by security forces following a firefight with BIFF in Shariff Sayyidona, Maguindanao. The cache contained one IED, eight improvised hand grenades, eight hand grenades, IED components such as black powder, fragmentation, switchboards, electrical wiring, ammonium nitrate, and unspecified documents. **Philippines News Agency (2/27/20)**

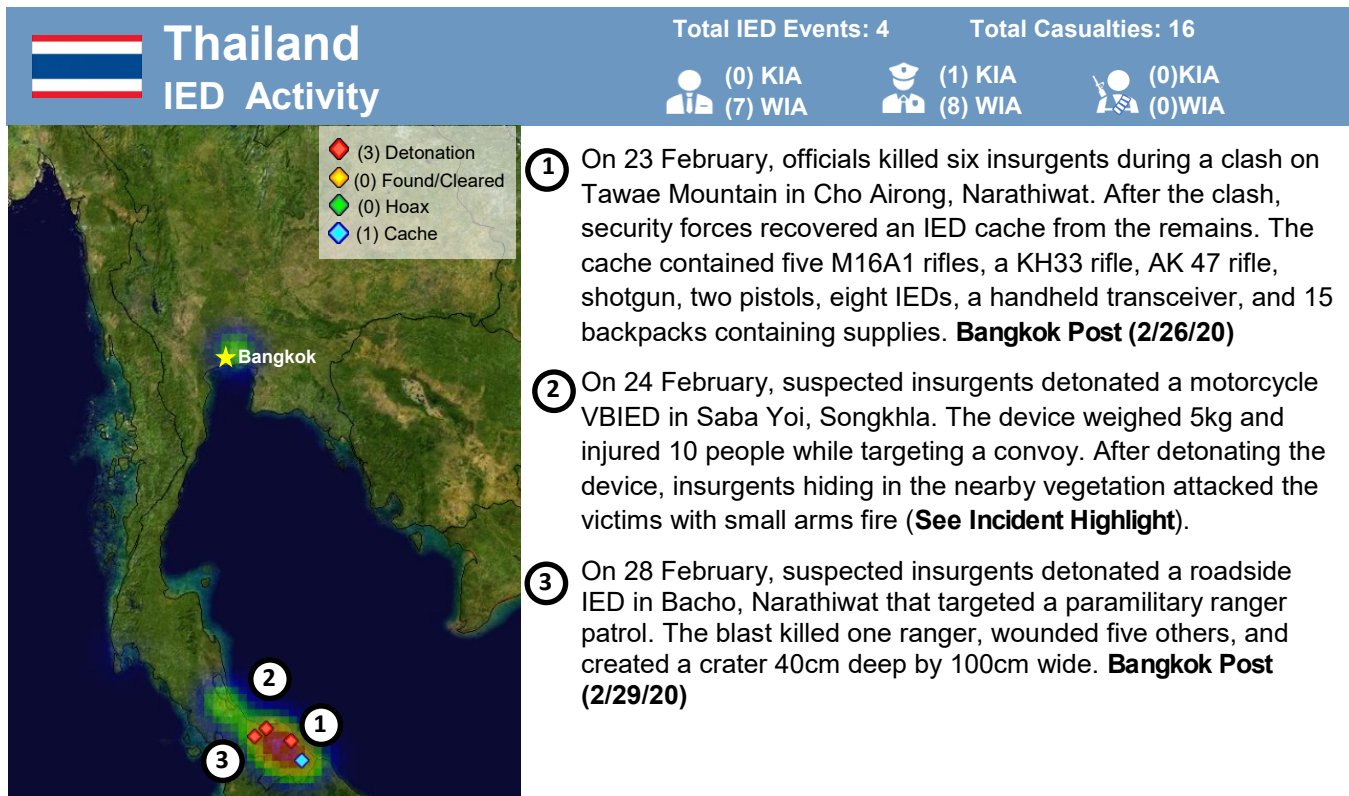
IED activity during the month of January declined significantly throughout the Philippines to about nine events. Factors that have led to this decrease may include increased security operations against the BIFF, the eruption of the Taal Volcano in late January, and the Coronavirus outbreak.

IED activity related to the BIFF, like the one on 12 Feb, was mostly associated to the security operation to capture the bomb maker known as Katato Samad. While the reported death of Samad, a single BIFF bomb maker, is not overly significant, it comes at a time when the BIFF has experienced numerous losses following several months of sustained AFP operations.

Philippines IED Activity February 2019—February 2020

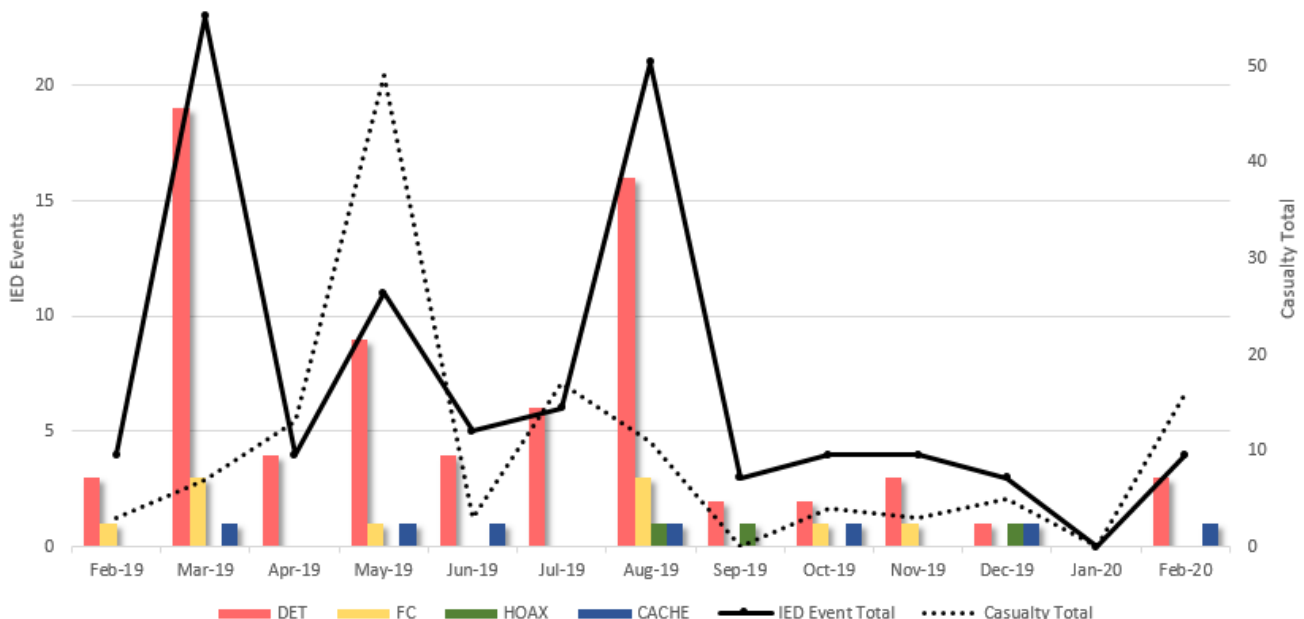


IED



In February, Thailand experienced an uptick in IED activity compared to the previous month with the majority of the events being detonations. The violent attacks on 24 and 28 February comes at a time when the Royal Thai Government (RTG) have started to enter negotiations with the Barisan Nasional Revolusi (BRN), the most powerful and active VEO in Thailand. While the RTG has previously held negotiations with other VEOs that comprise the Southern Thai Insurgency to a mixed success, the initial talks held in late January marks the first instance the BRN has been included. The second round of talks is scheduled to begin in early March. However, it is possible that the current sentiment towards reconciliation could quickly sour unless the BRN is able to reign in the violence.

Thailand IED Activity February 2019—February 2020



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

Appendix A

South Asia

Bangladesh		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	10	2	0	13	25
	Year	22	2	0	28	52
Event Count	Month	6	1	0	2	9
	Year	11	1	0	5	17
India		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	23	124	0	15	162
	Year	44	148	1	95	288
Event Count	Month	17	10	0	14	41
	Year	34	10	1	22	67
Nepal		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	1	0	1	2
	Year	6	10	0	5	21
Event Count	Month	0	1	0	1	2
	Year	5	10	0	2	17
Sri Lanka		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	4	4
	Year	0	0	0	7	7
South Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	33	127	0	29	189
	Year	72	160	1	128	361
Event Count	Month	23	12	0	21	56
	Year	50	34	1	36	121

Southeast Asia

Philippines		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	1	0	0	15	16
	Year	3	2	0	29	34
Event Count	Month	1	1	0	6	8
	Year	3	3	0	16	22
Thailand		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	3	0	0	8	11
	Year	3	0	0	8	11
Event Count	Month	3	0	0	1	4
	Year	3	0	0	1	4
Burma		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	2	0	1	0	3
	Year	2	0	1	0	3
Event Count	Month	1	0	1	0	2
	Year	1	0	1	0	2

Appendix A

Southeast Asia Cont.

Indonesia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	1	0	1	0	2
	Year	2	0	4	0	6
Event Count	Month	1	0	1	0	2
	Year	2	0	2	0	4
Malaysia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Southeast Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	6	0	2	23	54
	Year	10	2	2	39	92
Event Count	Month	5	1	2	7	15
	Year	9	3	3	20	35

Northeast Asia

China		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	1	0	1
	Year	2	4	0	1	7
Event Count	Month	0	0	1	0	1
	Year	2	2	1	1	6
Japan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
South Korea		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Taiwan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	1	0	1
	Year	2	4	0	1	7
Event Count	Month	0	0	1	0	1
	Year	2	2	1	1	6

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Common Terms and Acronyms

AN – Ammonium Nitrate
 ANFO – Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil
 ARMM – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 CIV – Civilian
 CBRN – Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
 COIN – Counter-insurgency
 CWIED – Command Wire IED
 DTMF – Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency
 EFP – Explosively Formed Projectile
 EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal
 F/C – Found & Cleared
 HME – Homemade Explosives
 IDF – Indirect Fire
 IED – Improvised Explosive Device
 IrW – Irregular Warfare
 KFR – Kidnap for Ransom
 KIA – Killed in Action
 LOC – Line of Communication
 LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas
 MSR – Main Supply Routes
 NFI – No Further Information
 NSTR – Nothing Significant To Report
 PBA – Post Blast Analysis
 PBIED – Personnel Borne (Suicide Bomb) IED
 PCB – Printed Circuit Board
 PMG – Police, Military, Government
 PN – Partner Nation
 PPIED – Pressure Plate IED
 QRF – Quick Response Force

RCIED – Radio Controlled IED
 RCP – Route Clearance Patrols
 RPG – Rocket Propelled Grenade
 SA – South Asia
 SAF – Small Arms Fire
 SEA – Southeast Asia
 SVBIED – Suicide Vehicle Borne IED
 TATP – Triacetone Triperoxide
 TNT – Trinitrotoluene (C₇H₅N₃O₆)
 TTP – Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
 UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
 VBIED – Vehicle Borne IED
 VEO – Violent Extremist Organization
 VOIED – Victim Operated IED
 WIA – Wounded in Action

Terms:

Terrorism—the unlawful use of violence or threat of violence to instill fear and coerce governments or societies. Terrorism is often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs and committed in the pursuit of goals that are usually political.
Insurgency—An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through use of subversion and armed conflict.
Separatism—the desire by a group of people within a country to separate from the rest of the country and form their own government.

Governments, Groups and Organizations

South Asia

India

BSF – Border Security Forces
 CPI-M – Communist Party of India (Maoist)
 CRPF – Central Reserve Police Force
 HM – Hizb-ul-Mujahideen
 IM – Indian Mujahideen
 JeM – Jaish-e-Mohammed
 ULFA – United Liberation Front of Assam

Nepal

CPN-M – Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
 JTMM – Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha

Bangladesh

BNP – Bangladesh National Party
 HUJI-B – Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami Bangladesh
 JIB – Jemaat-e-Islami Bangladesh
 JMB – Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh
 JMJB – Jama'atul Muslim Janta Bangladesh
 RAB – Rapid Action Battalion

Sri Lanka

JMI – Jamathei Millathu Ibraheem
 NTJ – National Thowheed Jama'ath

Southeast Asia

Burma

AA – Arakan Army
 ARSA – Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army
 KIA – Kachin Independence Army
 UWSA – United Wa State Army

Thailand

BRN-C – Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate
 RKK – Runda Kumpulan Kecil

Philippines

ASG – Abu Sayyaf Group
 BIFF – Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters
 CPP – Communist Party of the Philippines
 MILF – Moro Islamic Liberation Front
 NPA – New People's Army
 PNP – Philippine National Police

Indonesia

JAD – Jamaah Ansharut Daulah
 JAT – Jamaah Ansharout Tauhid
 JI – Jamaah Islamiya
 POLRI – Indonesian National Police

Other Groups/Organizations

ISI – Inter-Services Intelligence (Pakistan)
 ISIS – Islamic State of Iraq ash Sham
 LeT – Lashkar-e Tayyiba